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Australia, Belarus, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Comoros, Dominica, Estonia, Fiji, Georgia, Grenada, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Nauru, Netherlands, New Zealand, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Poland, Portugal, Samoa, Senegal, Seychelles, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu: draft resolution

Triennial United Nations conferences on oceans and seas

The General Assembly,

Recalling that oceans, seas and coastal areas form an integrated and essential component of the Earth's ecosystem and are critical to sustaining it, and that international law, as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,[1] provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans and their resources,

Reaffirming the importance of the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans and seas and of their resources for sustainable development, including through their contributions to poverty eradication, sustained economic growth, food security and creation of sustainable livelihoods and decent work, while at the same time protecting biodiversity and the marine environment and addressing the impacts of climate change,

Recalling the commitment made in "The future we want"[2] to protect, and restore, the health, productivity and resilience of oceans and marine ecosystems, to maintain their biodiversity, enabling their conservation and sustainable use for present and future generations, and to effectively apply an ecosystem approach and the precautionary approach in the management, in accordance with international law, of activities having an impact on the marine environment, to deliver on all three dimensions of sustainable development,

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1833, No. 31363.
[2] Resolution 66/288.

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Recalling also the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[3] which recognizes the importance of oceans and seas, in particular, through the adoption of Sustainable Development Goal 14, to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development,

Recalling further the decision taken in its resolution 67/290 of 9 July 2013 that the high-level political forum on sustainable development, under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, would conduct regular reviews, starting in 2016, on the follow-up and implementation of sustainable development commitments and objectives, including those related to the means of implementation, within the context of the post-2015 development agenda,

Recalling its resolution 54/33 of 24 November 1999, by which it established an open-ended informal consultative process in order to facilitate the annual review by the General Assembly, in an effective and constructive manner, of developments in ocean affairs,

Reaffirming that the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals will depend upon a revitalized and enhanced Global Partnership, bringing together Governments, civil society, the private sector, the United Nations system and other actors,

Recalling that thematic reviews of progress on the Sustainable Development Goals, including cross-cutting issues, at the high-level political forum on sustainable development will be supported by reviews by the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and other intergovernmental bodies and forums which should reflect the integrated nature of the Goals as well as the interlinkages between them, and that those reviews will engage all relevant stakeholders and where possible, feed into, and be aligned with, the cycle of the high-level political forum,

Noting in this regard the need for a dedicated high-level global platform to drive progress and promote the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14,

1. *Decides* to convene a series of triennial United Nations conferences on oceans and seas, during the period covered by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

2. *Welcomes* the offer made by the Governments of Fiji and Sweden to co-host the first conference, to be held in Fiji from 5 to 9 June 2017 to coincide with World Oceans Day, in the spirit of global partnership, and notes with appreciation the generous pledge by the co-hosts to assume the costs for the first conference;

3. *Decides* that the costs for the subsequent conferences will be covered by the host countries;

4. *Decides also* that the triennial conferences shall be a high-level global platform by means of which Governments and all relevant stakeholders of Sustainable Development Goal 14, including the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations, and major groups and other stakeholders, can engage constructively and build partnerships, assess the progress made and the remaining gaps in meeting the agreed targets of Goal 14, and provide recommendations on setting benchmarks for future actions, with the objective of ensuring the full implementation of Goal 14;

[3] Resolution 70/1.

5. *Decides further* that the outcomes of the triennial conferences will feed into the high-level political forum on sustainable development, and into the General Assembly, through the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea;

6. *Decides* to consider, before the end of 2016, the scope, modalities, participation, format and organization of the first conference in the most efficient and effective manner possible.